Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society

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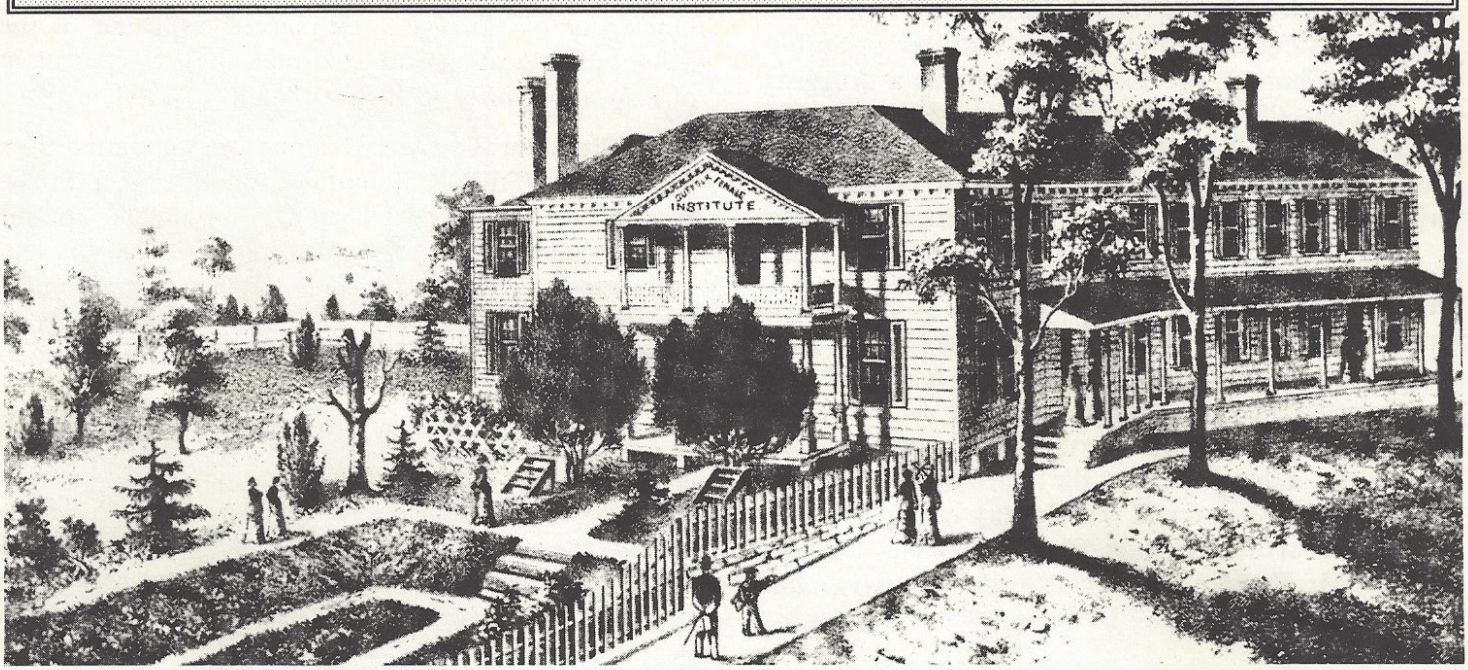
There is history in all lives.

Volume 6, Issue 1 February, 1997



The Hotel, the College, and College Court

Early in the nineteenth century the Central Hotel enjoyed a very advantageous position on Main Street. When the first section of the building was constructed (perhaps around 1790), the Nansemond River, with its access to the Chesapeake Bay and points north, was a busy thoroughfare. People travelling between northeastern North Carolina and the Chesapeake generally came down Main Street and stopped at one of Suffolk's hotels.

According to the SNHS brochure A Walk Down Main Street, the hotel had a cistern, an ice house, a large barn, and stables for the use of the guests. Sometime before the War Between the States, James McGuire bought the hotel. During Suffolk's occupation by the Union Army in 1862-63, Union General Mansfield used the hotel as his headquarters.

McGuire would be the last innkeeper to operate the hotel. In 1871, he sold the property to Miss Sallie Finney and her sisters. The Finneys had established the Suffolk Female Institute (later known as "the College") in 1869. It was a Methodist school, but girls from many denominations came. Students were from Virginia and North Carolina. The grounds of the school ran from the corner of Institute Street (renamed Finney Avenue years later when it was widened) to the Methodist Church (now the Main Street Apartments) and in the rear to Hill Street. The grounds were terraced and beautifully landscaped. A second building (since demolished) was constructed behind the old hotel-turned-school. The school closed when the Finney sisters retired in 1908.

The next owner was John B. Pinner, a successful businessman who lived on nearby Pinner Street. When Mr. Pinner bought the property, he gave it a new look and a new use. The center section was removed from the long hotel-turned-school and a large gate was installed. The two remaining sections of the school became apartments--two in each building.

The gate was the main entrance to the bungalow court that Mr. Pinner constructed--College Court, named for the school that had been on that lot. A larger house in the same cottage style was squeezed at an angle behind one of the newly created apartment buildings. (That apartment building was demolished in the 1960s leaving only the one on the corner.) The large cottage was reported to have been built for John F. Pinner and his bride. For many years, however, it was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Kilby and his sister, Miss Hilah Kilby.

College Court was a popular place to live in the first half of the century. Some families lived there for forty or fifty years. There were six bungalows that faced the court and their residents were well known in

the community. Hubert Darden owned a grocery store behind the City Market, Richard Lipscomb was an attorney, and James Laine worked for John B. Pinner at Suffolk Peanut Company before opening his own peanut brokerage. Frank Chase, principal of Suffolk High School 1927-1939, lived at #5 College Court [see related article]. Some other residents over the years were the Hardcastles (he was the minister at Suffolk Christian Church), the Fitzhughs (he was a druggist), the Godbys (he was superintendent of Suffolk City Schools), Dr. and Mrs. Bill Eddy, Coach Dick White, the Palmers, the Pierces, the Runnels, the Murphys, the Brinkleys, the Artmans, and, in later years, the Kinseys.

Several of the fathers could walk to work. The children walked to school and families could walk to church. The doctor, the druggist, the post office, good clothing stores, and nearly anything one might need for the home could be found a block or so away. Children--and there were plenty in the neighborhood--could walk a block to see the matinee on Saturday afternoon. Parents could walk to an evening movie or to a dance at the German Club upstairs at the City Market. Mr. Darden's grocery store delivered--one had but to call in the order. Little wonder it was such a popular place.

College Court, including the large cottage and what remains of the Finney School, is in a National Register of Historic Places district. The court is said to be unique in Virginia, if not on the East Coast. The bungalow court idea was more popular on the West Coast. Also unusual is the fact that the court was designed as a pedestrian court rather than a motor court.

The court and the buildings along Main Street belonged to the Pinner family until around 1987. It is now on the market again. The charming cottages and the old hotel await a new owner and perhaps another new use.

Thanks to Jim Laine for College Court information.

Dr. Francis S. Chase

Francis Seabury Chase (1899-1995) was born in Lancaster County, Virginia, and he received his early education there. He graduated from the University of Virginia (B.S., M.S.) and the University of Chicago (Ph.D.). He began his teaching career in 1922 at a rural high school in Colonial Beach, Virginia.

He came to Suffolk in 1927 and served as principal of Suffolk High School until 1939. During most of that time, he and his wife lived at #5 College Court. Their three children were born while they lived there.

Chase left Suffolk in 1939 to become the Executive Secretary of the Virginia Education Association and Editor of the Virginia Journal of Education. In 1945, he joined the faculty of the University of Chicago. He served as Dean of the School of Education and Chairman of the Department of Education, prior to his retirement in 1968.

President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed him Chairman of the President's Committee on Public Higher Education for the District of Columbia. He was educational advisor to the government of Pakistan and examiner for Swedish Education Policy and Planning. In 1976, the School of Education of the University of Virginia named him its Bicentennial Distinguished Alumnus.

The Chase children were: Frank, who now lives in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania; Suzanne, who lives in Whitestone, Virginia; and James, who lives in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Interesting to note - one of Dr. Chase's grandchildren, Michael Gernhardt, is an astronaut, due to "up" for the second time April 3.

Information thanks to Jim Chase.

The Yankees are coming!

Marion Watson used to enjoy telling the story of Mr. McGuire and the apple brandy.

When it became obvious that the town was going to be seized by the Union Army in 1862, James McGuire, innkeeper of the Central Hotel, began to make preparations. He had a quantity of good apple brandy (one of Suffolk's best products in the nineteenth century) and he had no intention of leaving it for the Union Army.

McGuire instructed his servant to take the brandy to the creek or branch that ran behind the hotel property (the ravine is behind College Court now) and dispose of it. The servant left, but did not come back as expected.

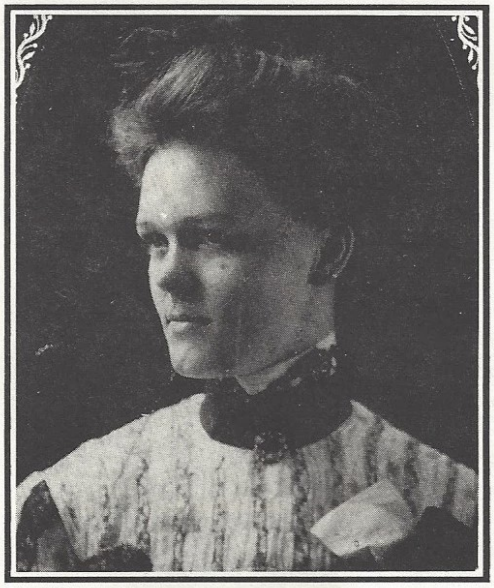
Finally, Mr. McGuire went to the creek where he found empty brandy bottles and a very intoxicated servant. When awakened and berated for his condition, the servant allowed as how with the Yankees coming he just didn't know when he'd ever see apple brandy again, so he drank all he could. Indeed, there was not a drop left for the Yankees.

FROM THE COLLEGE AND COLLEGE COURT

<Dr. Dennis in the Oval Office with LBJ. Catherine Dennis' older sister attended the Finney School before it closed in 1908. Dr. Dennis, herself, went to public school there for one year after the Finney School closed because the public schools lacked adequate facilities (space was a problem then, too). Later, Dr. Dennis' family moved to the apartments in the old College buildings. At that time she was a student at William and Mary in the first coed class there.

In the course of her career, Dr. Dennis became State Supervisor of Home Economics Teacher in North Carolina. As President of the American Home Economic Teachers Association she was asked to address a senate committee considering vocational education for all schools. When the vocational education bill was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, she was invited to be present.

Photo courtesy Dr. Dennis.



<Miss Louise Britt as November Sweetheart student at the Suffolk College in 1901. Miss Britt lived her whole life at 227 N. Main Street. She was the first Suffolk correspondent for the Ledger Dispatch (later named the Ledger Star, which merged with the Virginian-Pilot).

Photo courtesy Janet Pierce Waller

^ In 1954, Virginia Lee Goode was a winner in the Glamour Magazine Ten Girls with Taste Survey. She left her job as a legal secretary for Anderson and Landon Maxey and her home in the old Finney School Apartments to become a model in New York. She appeared in many advertisements and on the cover of many women's magazines during her busy career.

SNHS photo collection.

<1934, Eddie Pierce, Mills Riddick & Janet Pierce learning to ride bicycles on Main St. down the hill from College Court. Old Seabord R.R. Building in background.

<#7 College Court in 1942.

<Bob Darden and friends on College Court. Bob was the son of Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Darden. Their family lived at #1 College Court for more than thirty years.

^Dorothy Withers Darden, 1918 at College Court.

<Ms. Moore and Mrs. McConkey, Sept. 18, 1905 Suffolk College

Photo courtesy Janet Pierce Waller

Suffolk College, Suffolk, Va.

SALLY A. FINNEY, Principal.

COMMENCEMENT * EXERCISES

1896

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, AT 8 P. M.—Main-street M. E. Church, South—Baccalaureate Sermon, by Rev. W. Asbury Christian, of Richmond, Va.

MONDAY, JUNE 8, FROM 10.30 A. M. to 5 P. M.—At the College Hall—Art Exhibition. Lulie Wilson Crump in charge.

MONDAY, JUNE 8, AT 8 P. M.—City Hall—Celebration of Victoria Literary Society. Annual Address by Rev. James W. Moore, of Norfolk, Va.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, AT 10.30 A. M.—Music Hall of the College—Graduation Exercises.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, AT 8 P. M.—City Hall—Closing Concert.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7—8 P. M.

Organ Voluntary ---------- *Guilmant*

Georgia Crafford Crump.

"The Lord is My Shepherd" ---------- *Henry Smart*

Vocal Class.

Hymn No. 375 ---------- Tune, "Federal Street"

Prayer.

Hymn No. 485—Tune, "Suffolk" (Composed by the Winner of Medal in Harmony)

Offertory—"Serenade" ---------- *Raff*

Georgia C. Crump.

Vocal Trio—"Faith" ---------- *G. Rossini*

Irma C. Amiss, M. Ruby Gilliam, Mabel F. Diggs.

SERMON ---------- "The Dignity of Service"

Rev. W. Asbury Christian.

Hymn No. 486 ---------- Tune, "Bealoth"

Prayer.

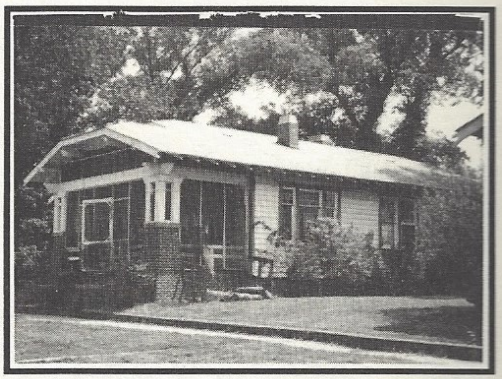
"Good-Night" ---------- *J. Rheinberger*

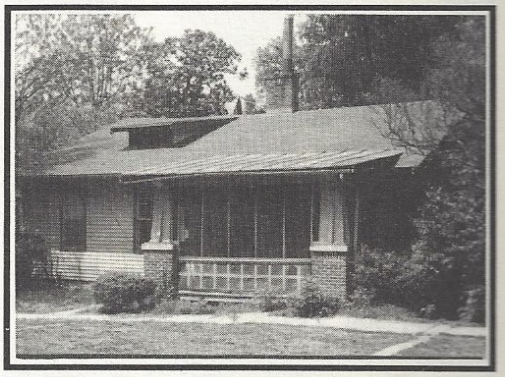
Vocal Class.

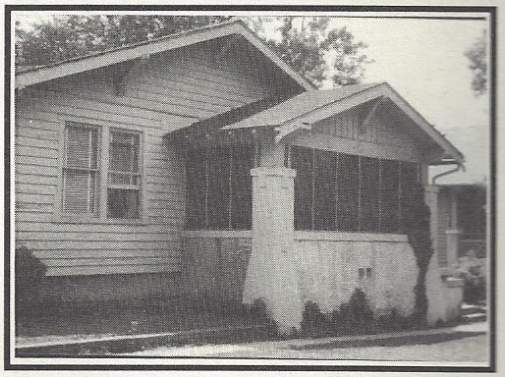
Doxology. Benediction.

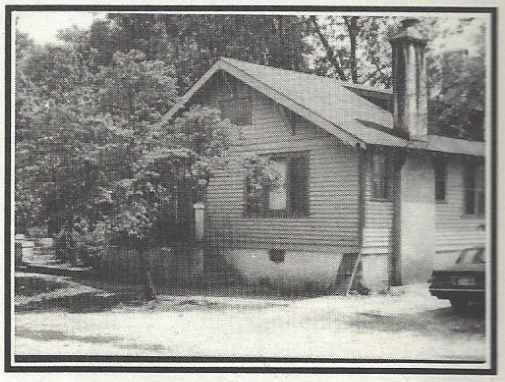
Accompanist—Florence M. Campbell

☞ *Preserve this Programme.*



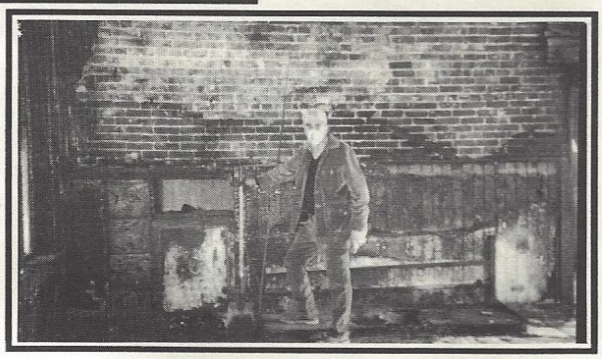






#3 -#7 College Court

<Alvis Winslow working in the Holiday Shop for the '96 Christmas Tour.



Jim McLemore Station Clean-up Day>

Notes from the President's Calendar

Aug. 7, 1996 - Barbara McPhail spoke to City Council in support of renovating Suffolk High School.

Sept. 16 - SNHS Board Meeting - Discussed Christmas Tour, selection of SOS Committee, Main Street projects, and the SNHS Fall Meeting.

Sept. 19 - Met with **Sue Woodward** to discuss Christmas Tour and design mailing for Oct. 14 meeting.

Sept. 20 - Sue and I toured and photographed White Marsh Road to formulate plans for Fall Meeting. Sue and I met with **Jinks Lemmon Babey** to discuss plans for the next issue of Discover Suffolk.

Sept. 23 - Barbara, Sue, and I met with **Harry Cross** who informed us that Alison Baker wanted to sell College Court. We discussed different options and concerns.

Sept. 30 - I attended the Downtown Suffolk Association Board Meeting and was pleased to see several City officials in attendance. **Mayor Underwood** is an active member.

Oct. 1 - Official notification of the availability of the ISTEA grant money for train station renovation.

Oct. 3 - Barbara, Sue, and I met with **Joyce Trump** to discuss the feasibility of the school board offices being relocated in old Suffolk High building.

Oct. 7 - SNHS Board Meeting - **George Consolvo** presented the idea of forming a tax-exempt foundation to help raise funds for the restoration of SHS.

Oct. 11 - Sue and I braved the masses and attended the City sponsored party at Peanut Fest.

Oct. 12 - Back to the airport for the Peanut Butter Sculpture Contest. Sue cheered me on as I carved out my rendition of the old City Market. What a proud moment--my very first blue ribbon!

Oct. 14 a.m. - Sylvia Pond and I carried the SNHS books and records to **Durrell Mills** who is doing an audit for 1995 and 1996.

Oct. 14 p.m. - Fall Business Meeting at Riddick's Folly. Every one enjoyed delicious desserts and **Sue Woodward's** program on the White Marsh Road. **Frank Case, N. B. Brothers, Bruce Saunders,** and I told stories about our families on the White Marsh Road.

Oct. 15 a.m. - George, Sue, and I met with **Bob Chisom, Jim Vacalis, and Scott Mills** about the railroad station project.

Oct. 15 p.m. - Met with **Lee and Barbara Vesely** and their house chairmen to discuss Christmas Tour.

Oct. 18 - Dana Adams, Sue, and I worked on the Christmas Tour brochure. Dana did a great job as publicity chairman.

Oct. 20 - SNHS Fall Outing to the **Dismal Swamp**.

Oct. 21 a.m. - Dana, Sue, and I met again to finalize the tour brochure.

Oct. 21 p.m. - Sue and I went to **Randy and Sue Davis'** house to discuss Christmas Tour.

Oct. 28 a.m. - First official meeting of the new Save Our Station Ad Hoc Committee.

Oct. 28 p.m. - DSA Board Meeting - Parking downtown is a major topic and concern.

Oct. 29 - Met at **Baker Funeral Home** to discuss plans for **Constantia House** and funeral home for tour.

Oct. 30 - George, Barbara, Elizabeth, and I attended a City meeting to discuss usage of SHS. In attendance also were **Tommy Underwood, Jim Vacalis, Melvin Boone, Doug Naismith, George Barnett, Elgin Lowe, and Gail Pruden**.

Nov. 1 - Began preparing brochures for mailing. What a process with the new bulk mailing regulations.

Nov. 4 - Joint meeting of SOS Ad Hoc Committee and SNHS Board of Directors.

Nov. 12 - SOS Ad Hoc Committee met to discuss plans for Clean Up Day and usage.

Nov. 14 - Pat Snyder, Mary Lawrence Harrell, and I had a topiary workshop for Christmas Tour gift shop.

Nov. 15 - Met with newspapers to take pictures for tour.

Nov. 17 - Linda Consolvo and I worked on costumes for tour. We hoped to have people in period costumes at each front door.

Nov. 18 - SNHS Board Meeting - Christmas Tour and preservation concerns were topics of discussion.

Nov. 20 - SOS Ad Hoc Committee Meeting - Discussed clean up, usage, architect, contractor, etc. Exciting news -- **Randy Hicks**, a local architect, has offered his services for the station renovation and **Jim Caton** has volunteered his expertise as general contractor. **Blair Bros.** has offered to grade the area around the station at the appropriate time. This process is extremely slow in these beginning stages. It is a lesson in patience, as well as a fine example of people working together and sharing their talents and time in order that we can preserve our past for future generations.

Nov. 21 - Linda, Sue, and I attended City sponsored Comprehensive Planning Meeting at Mt. Zion School.

Nov. 23 - Station Clean Up Day - What a dirty, but exciting job! The **City of Suffolk** supplied a trash truck, trash containers, and two workers. The **Regional Jail** made available four men from the work-release program. **Cola Cobb** came to the rescue by hooking up a temporary electrical service. **Lipton Tea** furnished hard hats and **Birdsong Peanuts** supplied masks. **Thomas "Slim" Brown** from **Suffolk Iron Works** and **Harry White** from **Reginald Brothers Co.** worked with **George Blair, James Blair, Pearl Blair Harrell, Linda and George Consolvo, Jim Caton, Thad Keyt, Jim McLemore, and me from the Historical Society.** We were rather hysterical looking by quitting time. One might have guessed that we had been shoveling coal for a steam engine instead of cleaning out the station.

Nov. 25 - DSA Board Meeting.

Dec. 4 - Dana Adams, Sue Burton, Linda Consolvo, Sandy Hart, Melissa Odom, Pat Snyder, and I worked on topiaries for the Tour Decorating Shop.

Dec. 7 - SNHS Candlelight Tour - A major downpour put a damper on the number attending, but not on the enjoyment of those who did.

Dec. 8 - SNHS Candlelight Tour - The sun was shining as were the many homes, churches, old cars, the museum, and the hundreds of luminaries furnished by the **West End Association**. This year's tour was large and exceptional. We are extremely grateful to everyone who worked so hard to make our tour the very best. Well over 200 people worked to make this tour happen. Net profit was approximately $4,600.

Jan. 13, 1997 - SNHS Board Meeting - Discussions about Christmas Tour, SHS, SOS, College Court, the Leggett houses, and our upcoming membership drive consumed several hours.

Jan. 14 - DSA Board Meeting.

Jan. 15 - Barbara, Sue, Linda, and I spent the morning on Main Street with **Ruth Akright** from Virginia Beach. Ruth has worked in several aspects of preservation and would like to assist us.

Jan. 20 - The Honorable Elmon Gray invited us to Petersburg to tour and meet with **Dr. Lena Whitt**. Senator Gray and Dr. Whitt are Co-Chairmen of the Historic Petersburg Foundation, Inc., Heritage Campaign. They are striving to raise four million dollars for their preservation endeavors. **Mayor Underwood joined Sue, Linda, and me** and we spent a most interesting and informative day with two people who have had a great deal of experience and success in Petersburg.

Jan. 22 - Barbara, Sue, George, and I met with **Jim Vacalis, Tommy Hines, Mayor Underwood, and Dinesh Tiwari** about Suffolk High School.

Jan. 23 - SOS Ad Hoc Committee Meeting - We met with **John Poffrath, President of the Chesapeake & Albemarle Historical Society**. He had many ideas about our station project.

Jan. 29 - Sue, Barbara, and I met with **Joyce Trump** to discuss SHS.

Jan. 30 - Jim Lane from Virginia Beach grew up in College Court. He came to Suffolk and met with **G. S. Hobbs, Sue, Barbara, and me**. We toured two houses in College Court and heard Jim's version of growing up on Main Street in College Court in the '40s.

Feb. 4 - Bob Goumais of the Planning Department asked that Barbara, Sue, and I meet with **Keith Weaver**, a LDR consultant working on the long range comprehensive plan for Suffolk. We appreciated the opportunity to talk about Suffolk's historical importance and our concerns about preserving this aspect.

Feb. 7 - Mr. and Mrs. Jim Lane invited Sue and me to lunch and presented us with a book of pictures, and a written record of people who lived in **College Court**.

Feb. 8 - Sue, Linda, Thad Keyt, and I met **Harry Cross** at College Court. He arranged for us and another group of prospective buyers to tour all but one dwelling. What a treat!

Feb. 10 - SNHS Board Meeting - Another long meeting. Sometimes we wonder if all these meetings and all this talking are ever going to be productive. We must believe that it is. We have learned how complicated this preservation business is.

Feb. 12 - Mary Ruffin Viles from the **Department of Historic Resources** met with Barbara, Linda, Mary Lawrence, and me to talk about the National Register tax incentives, etc.

Feb. 13 - Barbara, Sue, and I met again with **Elizabeth Friel**, of the **Suffolk Planning Department**, and the **Historic Landmarks Commission**.

Feb. 21 - Went to **Gurley Press** to begin first stage of plans to print a 1998 calendar. This calendar will have historical pictures from our collections.

Our focus has greatly broadened. We are treading in new waters and have a great deal to learn.

I want to thank all of the people who support our work by giving their time, talents, and money. If any of you would like to work with us, please give us a call. There are many things we should and could do if we had more manpower. This work is exciting and enjoyable!

Betsy W. Brothers

SNHS Officers 1996-98

President
Betsy Brothers
539-6312

1st Vice-President
Barbara McPhail
539-1131

2nd Vice-President
Sue Woodward

Corresponding Secretary
Connie Happel

Recording Secretary
Linda Consolvo

Treasurer
Sylvia Pond

Assistant Treasurer
Elizabeth Gordon

Legal Advisor
George Consolvo

Director At Large
Mary Lawrence Harrell

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Collections
Jack Brantley
Lee King and
Fan Panton

Costumes
Linda Consolvo

Hospitality
Pat Snyder

Main Street R & R
Barbara McPhail

Membership
Elizabeth Gordon

Newsletter & Programs
Sue Woodward

Publicity
Dana Adams

Scrapbook
Joyce Saecker

Main Street R & R (Restoration and Reuse)

The Committee to rehabilitate and reuse North Main Street continues to work hard on saving endangered properties and investigating ways to get more people interested in helping with this ongoing problem.

Several of us have toured College Court and have been interested in trying to find a buyer. Harry Cross has shown the property to someone who is very serious about buying; however, if this deal does not close, the Historical Society is prepared to take an option on the College Court property. This would give us time to put together a group of investors who would renovate the buildings. These houses are wonderful. Each one has special features that make them very appealing, and they appear to be in surprisingly good shape on the inside. The worst looking part of the property is the courtyard which has been neglected and abused by renters and their vehicles. Remember this property is on the National Register and eligible for tax credits.

We continue to negotiate with Johnny Leggett on acquiring and improving his two houses on Main Street. This area will certainly be a focal point when the train station is fully restored and in use.

Number 400 North Main Street is looking great. Going into the cemetery is not as depressing now that this old home is coming back to life. It will be for sale or lease and could make a grand home, shop, or office for some lucky person.

The Colden house is owned by the First Baptist Mahan Street Church. We spoke with one of the members about what the church plans to do with this house. It is encouraging to know that the church leaders are interested in using the property and would like to get information on tax credits and grants for programs. The Historical Society offered to help in any way possible.

The Historical Society is marching towards the year 2000 with a fresh approach and a renewed commitment to preserving and renewing Suffolk. I hope more of you will actively support us in our efforts to make our city a better place to live and work.

Suffolk High School Update

Don't forget Suffolk High School! We continue to meet with City officials about how the building will be used. They are currently doing another study on spacial needs for City offices. The Historical Society reminds the City regularly that we hope to see Suffolk High School used as a multipurpose facility with the auditorium fully restored.

Some of us will soon begin the essential task of locating all alumni. We are going to need lots of help. If you have a list from your last reunion, please call me.

We need to show the City that we are very serious about assisting in the renovation of S.H.S. We will do this by raising funds and getting as many alumni as possible involved in the process.

Barbara Norfleet McPhail, Chairman

SNHS prints available for purchase in Riddick's Folly gift shop:

1907 Bird's Eye View of Suffolk, VA

Court House

Old City Market

Seaboard Train Station

Save Our Station

The Save Our Station Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to develop ideas concerning renovation of the train station.

In November, the Committee and various volunteers, including workers provided by the regional jail, cleaned the interior of the train station. An additional work day is needed and will be called in late winter or early spring.

At the moment, a local builder, Jim Caton, and architect Randy Hicks are volunteering their services to estimate the cost of certain major renovation items such as roof repair or replacement, foundation replacement, environmental cleanup, if any, and major landscaping. Such estimates will be in hand shortly and the architectural plans developed therefrom will be submitted to the City, which will then begin the preparation of the documents commencing the grant funding process. Funds will be available under the grant for approximately three years.

SOS Ad Hoc Committee

George L. Consolvo, Chairman
Everett B. Birdsong
George M. Blair
Betsy W. Brothers
James C. Caton
Robert Chisom
John C. Harrell
Randolph T. Hicks
Thomas G. Hines
James L. McLemore, III
Richard L. Pond, Jr.
Lynn K. Rose
James G. Vacalis
Sue F. Woodward

Hats off to the Suffolk Woman's Club for their recent donation of $500 to the SOS Fund. This brings the total of their generous contributions to $1,500.

Memorial Donations to Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society

(Gifts received after May, 1996 newsletter was printed.)

In Memory of	Given by
Maureen Dolan	Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Vinson
W. P. Simons	Mr. & Mrs. Tom S. Brothers
Marion Joyner Watson	Mr. & Mrs. George Y. Birdsong
Marion Joyner Watson	Mr. Angus I. Hines, Jr.
Marion Joyner Watson	Mr. & Mrs. C. Frank Jordan (to SOS Fund)
Marion Joyner Watson	Lucent Technologies/Peg Alpin & Associates
Marion Joyner Watson	Mr. & Mrs. Larry Ruden
Marion Joyner Watson	Suffolk Department of Motor Vehicles
Anna Woodward	Mr. & Mrs. Tom S. Brothers

Genealogy Notes

The Historical Society receives many requests for help on genealogy and we are collecting quite a bit of information from the people making these requests. They have been very generous in sharing their family histories with us. Suffolk records, as most of you know, were burned in a courthouse fire in 1866, therefore, any information we can gather before that date should be considered quite valuable. Genealogy is becoming an ever increasing hobby and we should welcome and try to help as many genealogists as possible.

We have answered about 40 letters and met and helped quite a few others who have called about genealogy and more requests are coming in weekly. Those with special requests are looking for information on:

David Powell of Greenville, NC, has two Census Books for sale - 1900 Gates County Census, indexed with over 10,400 names and 1800 Hertford County Census, with over 12,000 names. Contact: David Powell, P. O. Box 3168, Greenville, NC 27836.

Grave of Civil War Veteran John Wesly Addison who married Mary Eliza Moore or help with the Archer and Addison family.

Picture of the Boothe Family homeplace at Nurney Siding (more recently the location of Perry & Son Lumber Co.). Could be with a picture of the Chowan & Souther RR or the Seaboard RR. Also interested in Nurney Siding.

Ferguson and Worrell families of Nansemond and Southampton Co., VA. We have quite a bit, but are looking to add to file.

Thomas Saunders family, which includes Nansemond, Isle of Wight, and Southampton Co., VA. There have been several requests for help.

Wife of Thomas Ford born in England and settled in Suffolk (pre Rev. War), son John Ford. Moved to GA in 1758.

Any help on the Sallee Family 1650 - 1750. Abraham & Olive Sallee, William & Elizabeth Sallee or William & Nancy Sallee.

Richard Henry Saunders cemetery. Family of John Saunders. Children: Margaret Augusta, Richard Henry, Cornelia Mana, William Alexander, Samuel Smith and Mary Elizabeth. Also Cyprian Cross family and families of Smith and Goodman.

Parents of Mary Jane Harrell who married Simon Savage. Died 5/23/1904. Do you know the location of the Savage Cemetery on Great Fork Road?

Parents of Abram and Armesia Griffen Skinner married about 1838. Children: Joshua, Martha, Carr Griffen, Javan, Armesia, and Florence Skinner.

Skipper family in Nansemond Co., VA, about 1690. A lady has found indentures from 1723-1749 signed by Chief George Skipper of the Nottoway Indians.

Any information on Wilknora Wilkinson (b. 1730 ca. d. 1790) who married Barnaby Godwin (b. 1730 VA d. 1790 NC) married 1748 VA. Children: Jonathan, Lillynora m. John Shivers and Elizabeth M. John Milner. Quakers?

James Eure (b. 1688 Nansemond Co.,) Children: Samuel, James, and Stephen.
Nicholas Stallings (b. 1641) Children: Nocholas, Elias and John., Listed on VA lost records 1704 - Eng. duplicates.
Job Harrell (born 1760) Son Mills Harrell (b. 1780) His children: Elisha and William ended up in Gates Co., NC.

John Council Wilroy, Sr.; son John Francis Wilroy; grandson James Lacey Wilroy; g-grandson John Council Wilroy, Jr.; gg-grandson John Council Wilroy, III. Picture of Wilroy store or post office.

Amos Cullens/Cullins who married Tatimus possibly Whitley around 1875.

Old Post Offices of Nansemond Co., VA (locations and pictures), their post marks, post masters (pictures, biographical sketch, and a copy of their signature, if possible).

We have quite a bit of information on the following families: Archer, Ashburn, Baines, Baker, Butler, Brinkley, Brothers, Cross, Daughtrey, Eley, Everett, Ferguson, Harrell, Holland, Howell, Jones, Kelly, Kilby, Lee, Norfleet, Parker, Rawls, Riddick, Saunders, Smith, Sumner, Worrell, and Woodward. These are far from complete and we would like to trade information on them.

We have over 50 family cemetery records and over 40 family Bible records not in Fillmore Norfleet's books. Please add to these if possible.

We also have people working on the following families: Ballard, Barnes, Barrett, Birdsong, Blount, Bradshaw, Brantley, Brittain, Burchett, Carter, Copeland, Corbell, Council, Crocker, Darden, Davidson, Driver, Duke, Eure, Lankford, Lassiter, Luke, March, McClenney, Minton, Morgan, Palmer, Powell, Whitfield, Whitley, Wilder, Wilroy, Wilson, Winborne, and Wright.

If you can help with any of this information, have information to contribute, or have any questions, please contact me. Any pictures you have to copy or information you'd like to have picked up, I will be glad to do so.

Mrs. Carl R. Saunders (Bruce), 22552 Scottswood Drive, Franklin, VA 23851. Phone: (757) 562-4403.

1997 SNHS Membership Roster (as of February 25)

We welcome our "new" members who recently joined and thank our "returning" members who have already renewed. Membership is open to all who are interested in our city and in the aims and objectives of the Society. We invite you to join us.

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Candlelight Christmas Tour 1996

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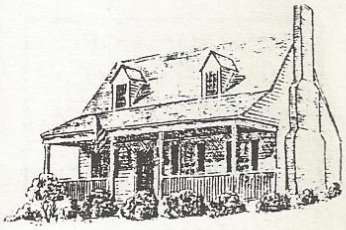

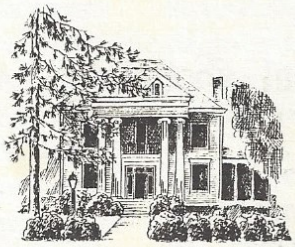
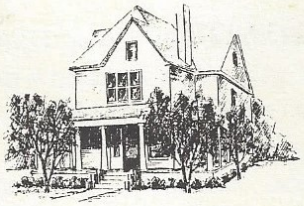
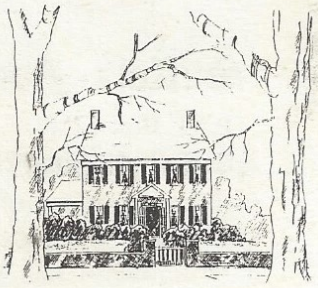

Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society Membership Form

Please circle dues amount and print or type name(s) exactly as you would like mailing label to read.

Membership	Individual	Couple
Benefactor	$200	$300
Sponsor	$100	$150
Patron	$75	$100
Friend	$50	$75
Contributing Member	$15	$25

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____

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The Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society is a non-profit tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

Please return membership form and check to:
Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society
Post Office Box 1255
Suffolk, Virginia 23439-1255

Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society's Annual Business Meeting and Covered Dish Supper
Monday, March 10, 6:30 p.m.
St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 213 North Main Street
Parking and Entrance to Parish Hall on Saratoga Street

We will present a program on College Court and Suffolk's private schools of the past. If you have pictures or other items relating to Finney School or College Court, please bring them for "Show and Tell."

For your viewing pleasure, we will have available the Society's collection of historic photographs.

We ask that you bring a salad, a vegetable, or a dessert. Fried chicken, bread, and beverages will be furnished. This wildly popular meeting is not only informative and enjoyable, but the food is always delicious.

Please let us know if you plan to attend, so we can set a place for you.

☞ **RSVP by Sunday, March 9** (Linda Consolvo 539-4244)

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK REMINDER
Suffolk Tour
"*Homes Along the Nansemond*"
Wednesday, April 23, 1997 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sponsored by The Nansemond River Garden Club

SNHS SPRING TOUR TO NEW BERN, NC
Tryon Palace and 12 Historic Homes & Gardens
Hope Plantation and "Little Washington"
Thursday, April 3 - Friday, April 4
For information, call Betsy Brothers at 539-6312.

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